

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 14 PRESS ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS
CONTROL INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES, QUOTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SAID SOVIET UNION IN RECENT WEEKS HAS STARTED TO PROVIDE SENSITIVE INFORMATION ON SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF ITS STRATEGIC MISSILE ARSENAL TO U.S. NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA. THIS IS FIRST TIME SOVIETS HAVE DONE THIS IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS, BURT SAID, POINTING OUT U.S. OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOVIET DISCLOSURES HAVE CREATED NEW NEGOTIATING PROBLEMS BECAUSE SOME OF MOSCOW'S FIGURES DO NOT SQUARE WITH U.S. INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES. "ANALYSTS ARE TROUBLED, IN PARTICULAR, BY DISCREPANCY IN NUMBER OF LAND-BASED INTER-
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CONTINENTAL MISSILES," BURT REPORTED. "SOVIET FIGURE -- 1,398 -- IS SAID BY OFFICIALS NOT TO INCLUDE 18 ROCKET SILOS USED FOR TRAINING. AMERICANS CONTEND THAT TRAINING LAUNCHERS CAN BE ADAPTED FOR OPERATIONAL USE AND MUST BE INCLUDED UNDER PROPOSED LIMITS." SALT TWO ACCORD IS MORE COMPLICATED ARRANGEMENT THAN SALT ONE, CALLING FOR LIMITS ON MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS AS WELL

AS RESTRICTIONS ON WEAPONS MODERNIZATION THAT CANNOT BE EASILY POLICED BY SATELLITES. CONSEQUENTLY, U.S. HAS ASKED MOSCOW TO COOPERATE IN SETTING UP JOINT DATA BASE CONTAINING INFORMATION ON WEAPONS NUMBERS AND PERFORMANCE TO BE USED IN VERIFICATION. "GOVERNMENT ALSO HOPES THAT DATA BASE WILL HELP EASE WAY FOR SENATE RATIFICATION IN VIEW OF SKEPTICISM AMONG SOME MEMBERS OVER WHETHER ACCORD CAN BE VERIFIED. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS WELCOME MOSCOW'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE, INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED IS LESS DETAILED THAN REQUIRED FOR PROPOSED DATA BASE. RUSSIANS HAVE GIVEN FIGURES FOR TOTAL NUMBERS OF MISSILES AND BOMBERS, BUT NOT FOR NUMBERS OF MISSILES ARMED WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS.... SOVIET UNION IS ALSO SAID TO BE UNWILLING TO DISCLOSE NUMBER OF WEAPONS IN CATEGORIES THAT WILL NOT BE EXPLICITLY LIMITED IN ACCORD." THESE INCLUDE FORCE OF HEAVY MISSILES AND BACKFIRE BOMBER, BURT SAID. U.S., HE ADDED, IS NOT REQUIRING BACKFIRE TO BE INCLUDED UNDER NUMERICAL CEILINGS IN NEW AGREEMENT, BUT SECRET GOVERNMENT STUDY GIVEN TO SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TWO WEEKS AGO SAID "AIRCRAFT HAS INHERENT CAPABILITY TO PERFORM CERTAIN INTERCONTINENTAL MISSIONS AND COULD BE GIVEN SUCH ROLE." AS RESULT, U.S. IS INSISTING ON RESTRICTIONS THAT WOULD LIMIT ABILITY OF BACKFIRE TO POSE THREAT TO U.S. BURT COMMENTED THAT ACDA IS SAID TO FAVOR ACCEPTING BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT THAT BACKFIRE'S UNCLASSIFIED

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RANGE IS 1,300 MILES,ALONG WITH PLEDGE BY BREZHNEV THAT PLANE WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST U.S. BURT POINTED OUT THAT CARTER'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISERS ARE SAID TO BE PRESSING FOR MORE PRECISE RESTRICTIONS ON WHERE BOMBER COULD BE BASED, HOW IT COULD BE EQUIPPED AND WHETHER IT COULD BE REFUELED. "U.S. IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR RESTRICTIONS ON ABILITY OF BOTH SIDES TO EQUIP EXISTING MISSILES WITH NEW PROPULSION SYSTEMS OR GUIDANCE UNITS. SOVIET UNION HAS REJECTED THIS APPROACH AND IS SAID TO BE HOLDING OUT FOR AN ACCORD THAT WOULD NOT IMPEDE MODERNIZATION."

2. DAVID K. WILLIS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, REPORTING FROM MOSCOW, SAID CREAM OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS, NO FEWER THAN 31 OF THEM, INCLUDING FIVE NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, WROTE PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HIS DECISION ON PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMB WAS MOST IMPORTANT ANY AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS FACED SINCE 1945 AND BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI. WILLIS SAID WESTERN ANALYSTS IN MOSCOW SEE AT LEAST FIVE MAJOR SOVIET POLICY MOTIVES BEHIND ORCHESTRATED DOMESTIC AND WORLDWIDE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN: 1. "GENUINE DISLIKE OF NEUTRON WEAPON MILITARILY AS AN ANTI-TANK

WEAPON."

2. "CONTINUING DESIRE TO GET WORLD TO ADOPT SOVIET LINE

AGAINST MR. CARTER -- THAT COUNTRY WHICH PRODUCED WEAPON WHICH KILLS PEOPLE BUT LEAVES PROPERTY INTACT HAS NO RIGHT TO SPEAK ABOUT DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS OR TO CRITICIZE OTHERS." 3. "DESIRE TO WIDEN DIVISIONS WITHIN NATO." 4. "DESIRE TO 'BUY SOMETHING FOR NOTHING' IN WORDS OF ANOTHER ANALYST: SOVIETS PLEDGE NOT TO START PRODUCTION." 5. "AN ECONOMIC MOTIVE: WHILE SOVIETS UNDOUBTEDLY CAN BUILD NEUTRON BOMB WARHEAD IF THEY WANT TO, IT COULD BE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON THEIR ALREADY AILING AND SLOWING ECONOMY."

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3. WILLIAM SAFIRE, IN HIS NEW YORK TIMES ESSAY, SAID "ALTHOUGH PAUL WARNKE DENIED HAVING PURGED ALL HAWKS FROM HIS ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, SOUND OF COOING IS DEAFENING FROM THOSE HALLS WHEN IT COMES TO CRUCIAL ISSUE OF VERIFICATION -- MAKING CERTAIN SOVIETS KEEP THEIR AGREEMENTS. ON FEB. 23, TRUSTING MR. WARNKE SENT TRUSTING SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AN INTERAGENCY ASSESSMENT OF VERIFIABILITY OF SALT TWO. HIS CONCLUSION THAT AGREEMENT WAS 'ADEQUATELY VERIFIABLE' WAS BASED, WARNKE WROTE, ON 'ATTACHED REPORT WHICH HAS BEEN PREPARED AND AGREED TO BY AGENCIES IN EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONCERNED WITH THIS ISSUE.' FIVE DAYS LATER, VICE ADM. PATRICK J. HANNIFIN, DIRECTOR OF JOINT STAFF OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ICILY INFORMED DOVECOTE THAT JOINT CHIEFS 'HAVE NOT AGREED TO STATEMENT.' MOREOVER, ADMIRAL WROTE: 'NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF WAS INFORMED ON 22 FEBRUARY THAT JCS HAD NOT CLEARED VERIFICATION PAPER....' EVIDENTLY, NSC LET MR. WARNKE SEND HIS HAPPY REASSURANCE ON TO CONGRESS WITHOUT INCLUDING SPECIFIC DEMURRER BY NATION'S MILITARY. ALTHOUGH SENATOR JOHN SPARKMAN SMILES SLEEPILY, REPRESENTING ROBIN BEARD OF TENNESSEE IS LIABLE TO TAKE THIS BAMBOOZLING SERIOUSLY." VANCE

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